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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Roland Lippoldt

Official

SERIAL NO.: 09/814,229

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FILED: March 21, 2001

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FOR: Locking Device for a Closure with a Housing

GROUP 3600

EXAMINER: Glenda Washington (LIE)

Group: 3677

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231COMMUNICATION

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 22, 2003. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment asserts that only a partial paragraph was replaced on page 8 of the specification. However, a complete paragraph was in fact replaced (see page 8 of the marked-up copy). The confusion arose because the clean version of the paragraph on page 8 (page 3 of the Amendment of January 13, 2003) starts with a small letter "o".

Attached hereto is a revised page 3 of the amendment in which the replaced paragraph on page 8 of the specification starts with a capital letter. For completeness' sake, a marked-up copy of page 8 of the specification is also attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Zinchuk

Alexander Zinchuk
Reg. No. 30,541

February 13, 2003

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
787 Seventh Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10019
Tel.: (212) 839-7365

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Alexander Zinchuk

Fig. 4 shows the same locking device as Figs. 1-3 with several hooks with the hook impinging on the closing edges in the same view at an increased scale. - -;

between lines 20 and 21, insert a heading:

-- Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment --.

Page 8, replace the first paragraph, lines 3-10, with a new paragraph as follows:

-- On the left-hand side in the drawing, the catch hook 12 has a bearing eyelet 16 on which a helical spring 17 is supported. The other end of the helical spring 17 is held on al bearing point 18 of the frame structure 6 fixed to the housing. The arrangement of the spring element 17 is such that it will be above the pivot axis 11 in any position of the locking mechanism so that it always seeks to pull the catch hook 12, in a counter-clockwise sense, into a position in which the guide pin 9 strikes against the first final stop 14', the right-hand one in the drawing, of the guide cam 14. --.

Page 9, replace the first paragraph, lines 13-17, with a new paragraph as follows:

-- As soon as the catch hook 12 impinges on the closing edge 4 this one becomes the new fulcrum of the catch hook 12. If the swiveling lever 8 continues to be pivoted counter-clockwise the catch hook 12 consequently is

- 8 -

plane extending through the slot 5 where it particularly may bring its hooked end 15 in engagement with the slot 5 or may grip through the slot 5.

On the left-hand side in the drawing, the catch hook 12 has a bearing eyelet 16 on which a helical spring 17 is supported. The other end of the helical spring 17 is held on a bearing point 18 of the frame structure 6 fixed to the housing. The arrangement of the spring element 17 is such that it will be above the ~~swivel bearing~~ ^{Pivot axis} 11 in any position of the locking mechanism so that it always seeks to pull the catch hook 12, in a counter-clockwise sense, into a position in which the guide pin 9 strikes against the first final stop 14', the right-hand one in the drawing, of the guide cam 14.

Finally, the locking mechanism has an electric driving motor 19 which also is firmly supported on the housing and has a rotary driving gear 20 whose series of teeth meshes with the series of teeth 10 of the swiveling lever 8.

The locking device operates as follows:

In the opening position shown in Fig. 1, the driving motor 19 has pivoted the swiveling lever 8 clockwise about the axis of rotation 7 until a final position is reached in which the gear 20 approximately has reached the one end of the series of teeth 10. In this position, the biased helical spring 17 pulls the catch hook 12 counter-clockwise so that the guide pin 9 abuts against the first final stop 14 of the cam segment 14'.

To close the lid 2, this one first is manually pivoted to the housing 1 until it gets into an angular position of about 5° with respect to the housing 1, which is shown in Fig. 1.

To lock the lid 2, the driving motor 19 drives the swiveling lever 8 about the axis of rotation 7 in a counter-clockwise direction. The helical spring 17 causes the catch hook 12 to continue abutting its first final stop 14' against the guide pin 9. Consequently, the catch hook 12 is pivoted along about the axis of rotation 7 with its hooked end 15 exiting from the upper side of the slot 5. The catch hook 12 is

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SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP

CHICAGO
DALLAS
LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO
WASHINGTON, D.C.

787 SEVENTH AVE.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019
TELEPHONE 212 839 5300
FACSIMILE 212 839 5599
www.sidley.com
FOUNDED 1866

BEIJING
GENEVA
HONG KONG
LONDON
SHANGHAI
SINGAPORE
TOKYO

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER
(212) 839-7355

WRITER'S E-MAIL ADDRESS
dioren@sidley.com

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FORM

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To: Glenda Washington (LIE)	Company: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	
Telephone #:	Fax #: 1 (703) 872-9326	
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COMMENTS:

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Applicants: Roland Lippoldt

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